

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 17-24 and 26-37 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 27, 28, 31, 33 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,653,101 to Myers ("Myers").

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 17-24 and 26 are allowed.

Claims 29, 30, 32, 34, 35 and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Amendments

Claims 27 and 33 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 29 and 34, respectively. These changes are not necessitated by the prior art, are unrelated to the patentability of the invention over the prior art, and do not introduce any new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 17-24 and 26, by the Examiner, is noted with appreciation.

The objection to claims 29, 30, 32, 34, 35 and 37 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is noted with appreciation.

Independent claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 29. Independent claim 33 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 34. Therefore,

claims 27 and 33 are independent claims including all of the limitations of claims 29 and 34, respectively. Claims 29, 30, 34 and 35 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 32 and 37 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

The rejection of claims 27, 28, 31, 33 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Myers, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 29, which was indicated as being allowable. Claim 33 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 34, which also was indicated as being allowable. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 27 and 33 are allowable. Claims 28, 31 and 36 are dependent upon claims 27 and 33 and thus include every limitation of claims 27 and 33. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 28, 31, 32 and 36 are allowable.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 27, 28, 31, 33 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Myers, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

New Claims

New claim 38 corresponds to cancelled claim 30 written in independent form. Claim 30 was indicated as being allowable. Therefore, applicants submit that new claim 38 and dependent claims 39-41 are allowable. New claim 42 corresponds to cancelled claim 35 written in independent form. Claim 35 was indicated as being allowable. Therefore, applicants submit that new claim 42 and dependent claims 43 and 44 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by 2 from 6 to 8 and increases the total number of claims by 3 from 27 to 30, but does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, a Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form authorizing the amount of \$222.00 to be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260 is enclosed herewith in duplicate. However, if the Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form is missing, insufficient, or otherwise inadequate, or if a fee, other than the issue fee, is required during the pendency of this application, please charge such fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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Respectfully submitted,

By:



Douglas A. Sorensen
Registration No. 31,570
Attorney for Applicant

DAS/rb:bar
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
Direct: (214) 981-3482
Main: (214) 981-3300
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400
June 6, 2003